

AIMS UPDATE

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DISTRIBUTION

We recommend that recipients of the AIMS Update communicate the information to superintendents, charter holders, principals, teachers, special education directors, counselors, assistant principals, students, and parents.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

On February 25, 2002, the state Board of Education approved the Department of Education's recommendation that local governing school boards adopt a plan to encourage students to maintain interest in learning the Standards and to put forth their best effort on AIMS. Suggestions presented to the Board included linking AIMS results to course or grade requirements; linking AIMS results to awards and recognition; using AIMS to trigger additional education or coursework in deficient areas; posting AIMS results on student transcripts; taking AIMS as a course or grade requirement; awarding extra credit for taking AIMS; assigning a zero for failure to take AIMS; creating school-wide achievement goals; or making AIMS a graduation requirement in advance of 2006 (when it becomes a state requirement for graduation from high school).

FALL HIGH SCHOOL AIMS RETEST

The October 21-23, 2002 AIMS administration scheduled for grades 11 and 12 that have not yet met the standard in reading, writing, or mathematics **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**. The Department of Education is conducting a comprehensive study to determine what test items will be needed for the year 2004. The results of this review will be used to determine whether new test items will be field tested in the fall of 2002. The Department and Harcourt Educational Measurement will be conducting item writing sessions for grades 3, 5, 8, and high school in June 2002. The decision to field test will be made soon thereafter.

CRITICAL DATES

Stanford 9 – Grades 2 – 9

Administration dates: March 15 – May 1, 2002

Scorable materials to Harcourt no later than May 9, 2002

AIMS – Grades 3, 5, and 8

Administration dates: April 29 – May 10, 2002

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 24, 2002

AIMS – High School: All Grade 10 students, and all grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet achieved "Meets the Standard" in reading, writing, or mathematics will be tested.

Writing – students whose IEP specifies out-of-level writing testing

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 24, 2002

Mathematics – April 29, 2002

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 24, 2002

Reading – April 30, 2002

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 24, 2002

PRETEST WORKSHOPS

Duane Manning and Mickey Geenen of Harcourt, and Paul Young would like to thank all the participants in the AIMS and Stanford 9 workshops for their attentiveness, excellent questions, and positive comments regarding the information presented. We are very interested in making the workshops a valuable experience for districts and charter schools. Any comments you can offer to help us improve our presentation for next year will be appreciated. You can e-mail them to Paul at pyoung@ade.az.gov.

AIMS STUDENT RESULTS

Harcourt Educational Measurement (HEM) has agreed to produce reports for high school students and to deliver them to districts and charter schools within 35 working days (47 calendar days) from the date that all scorable materials from all districts and charter schools arrive at the scoring center. A reasonable cut-off time for receipt of district materials for inclusion in the scoring process will be announced. Harcourt has also agreed to have test results for Grades 3, 5, and 8 delivered by August 1, provided that all scorable materials from all districts and charter schools arrive to HEM on time.

For Harcourt and ADE to meet the above timelines for the return of materials, we need your help in the following areas:

1. Reduce the number of alerts by following the directions for the return of materials. Alerts are generated by missing master file sheets, unclear Scoring Service Identification (SSID) sheets, missing or damaged shipments, a discrepancy between the number of answer documents returned and the number reported on the master file sheet, and incomplete or invalid answer documents.
2. Be sure that the SSID sheets and the Master File Sheet are properly completed and included with the scorable materials.
3. Return your scorable answer documents to the scoring center on time.

REMINDERS

1. For AIMS, student responses, such as short answer and extended writing that are included as separate documents with the answer documents, cannot be scored. Please transfer Braille, large print, and computer generated student responses to a regular answer document.
2. Keep AIMS High School Coordinator and Administration Manuals from writing administration for the reading and mathematics administrations.
3. Return unused AIMS answer documents with the test booklets.
4. If the AIMS Master File Sheet has been pre-slugged for only Grade 10, write in Grades 11 and 12, the number of groups, and the number of students.
5. AIMS is administered to Grade 3, 5, and 8 students based on the grade in which they are enrolled. Example: A student repeating the third grade would take the third grade test.

AIMS is administered to high school students based on the cohort to which the student belongs. The cohort is determined by year in which the student enters the ninth grade. Carnegie units of credit are not used to calculate the class/cohort. Example: A student who began Grade 9 in 2000-01 is a member of the Class/Cohort 2004, regardless of the number of credits earned. Example: The Class/Cohort 2006 will be defined as the students who enter the ninth grade during the 2002-03 school year.

6. Columns "I" and "J" in the OTHER INFORMATION section of the AIMS answer documents need to be completed according to the instructions on page 12 of the high school Coordinator's Manual and pages 12 and 13 of the Grade 3/5/8 AIMS Coordinator's Manual.

7. Remember to attach the label to the World Trade Center mathematics question in the Stanford 9 Advanced 2 (Grade 7) Mathematics Procedures test booklet, page 3, item 14.
8. The Stanford 9 is administered to students in Grades 2 through 8 based on the grade in which they were enrolled. Example: A student repeating the fourth grade would take the fourth grade test. The Stanford 9 is administered to ninth grade students based on the number of credits earned. Example: A student who is in the second year of high school, but has not earned enough Carnegie units of credit to be classified as a Sophomore, would take the Grade 9 Stanford 9 test.
9. Test materials for charter schools are packaged by school site and delivered to each site. Test materials for traditional districts are packaged by school site and shipped to the district.
10. The Research and Policy Section at ADE appreciates the extra effort it may take you to provide quality answers to questions 8 through 11 on the student answer documents. They are anticipating being able to provide accurate, research-based information to decision-makers regarding the long-term and short-term effects of Proposition 203.

REQUEST FOR DATA

All requests for electronic student level data for both the Stanford 9 and AIMS should be addressed to the Research and Policy Section. The phone number is 602-542-5151. You may request your data by contacting Ildiko Laczko-Kerr at ilaczko@ade.az.gov.